

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

OMB-01 GAC-01 T-03 AID-20 PC-04 RSR-01 /112 W

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R 142123 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7697

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1181

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, DR

SUBJECT: JUAN BOSCH BRIEFLY REAPPEARS

1. IN THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 12, PRD PRESIDENT JUAN BOSCH MOEMENTARILY EMERGED FROM HIDING TO MAKE A SHORT PUBLIC STATEMENT AT THE PRD NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

2. DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL THAT HE HAD MADE IN A LETTER TO THE PRESS ON MARCH 7, BOSCH TOLD AN ASSEMBLAGE OF NEWSMEN AND PRD LEADERS THAT THE PARTY SHOULD UNDERTAKE " AN UNCOMPROMISING BATTLE TO ESTABLISH IN THE COUNTRY A GOVERNMENT" WHICH WOULD RESPECT THE LAWS. " ALL THE PEOPLE SHOULD FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLEGAL GOVERNMENT AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT WHICH RESPECTS THE LAW." BOSCH INVITED OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES AND GROUPS TO JOIN THE PRD IN THIS ENDEAVOR. BOSCH SUGGESTED THAT THIS NEW POLICY, IF ACCEPTED BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WOULD REPLACE THE PRESENT PRD POLICY " OF FORCING THE GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT ITS OWN LEGALITY." HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, DELINEATE THE SPECIFIC TACTICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE OLD AND THE NEW POLICY.

3. BOSCH DEPARTED THE PRD HEADQUARTERS IMMEDIATELY AFTER MAKING THE STATEMENT, APPARENTLY TO RETURN TO HIDING.

4. THE GODR, THROUGH A PUBLIC STATEMENT ISSUED LATER THE SAME DAY BY THE GOVERNMENT PRESS SECRETARY, CESAR HERRERA, REACTED STRONGLY TO THE BOSCH STATEMENT: " THE PROPOSAL WHICH (BOSCH) HAS
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JUST MADE TO THE LEADERS OF HIS PARTY, IN TERMS MORE APPROPRIATE TO A PROFESSIONAL AGITATOR THAN TO AN IMPORTANT POLITICIAN, PLACE HIM AND HIS PARTY AT THE MARGIN OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAW AND EXPOSE THEM TO WHATEVER MEASURE, NO MATTER HOW DRASTIC, THE AUTHORITIES FEEL NECESSARY TO PRESERVE PEACE AND ORDER IN THE COUNTRY." HERRERA SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE GODR WOULD TAKE NO PRECIPITOUS ACTION. THE NEXT STEP WAS UP TO BOSCH. NEVERTHELESS, THE GODR DID MOVE TO LIMIT RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE BOSCH STATEMENT. THE DIRECTOR OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS WARNED THAT THE GODR WOULD CLOSE ANY RADIO OR TELEVISION STATION BROADCASTING THE STATEMENT.

5. THE PRESS CHOSE TO INTERPRET BOSCH'S STATEMENT MORE SYMPATHETICALLY THAN DID THE GODR. LISTIN DIARIO EDITORIALIZED ON MARCH 13 THAT BOSCH HAD NOT THREATENED THE GOVERNMENT WITH VIOLENCE BUT HAD ONLY CALLED FOR ACTIVE OPPOSITION PARTY PARTICIPATION IN THE 1974 ELECTIONS. EL NACIONAL AGREED WITH THIS INTERPRETATION AND CALLED BOSCH'S STATEMENT A REPETITION OF THE "ASPIRATIONS" OF MANY DOMINICANS. BOTH PAPERS ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE STATEMENT COULD, IF ONE WANTED TO DO SO, BE TAKEN AS A CALL TO VIOLENCE.

6. THE OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES REACTED CAUTIOUSLY TO THE STATEMENT. THE PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO SOCIAL CRISTIANO (PRSC) AND THE MOVIMIENTO DE INTEGRACION DEMOCRATICA (MIDA) PUBLICLY STATED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE PRD TO DEFINE FURTHER THE NEW POLICY BEFORE EXPRESSING AN OPINION. THE PARTIDO QUISQUEYANO DEMOCRATA (PQD) SIDE-STEPPING THE ISSUE ENTIRELY, AVERRED THAT THE GODR SHOULD GUARANTEE FREEDOM OF POLITICAL ACTION TO BOSCH, AND THE PRD. THE BALAGUERISTA GROUP, MOVIMIENTO NACIONAL DE LA JUVENTUD, ISSUED A DECLARATION WHICH TERMED THE STATEMENT "A CALL TO SUBVERSION" AND ASKED THAT BOSCH BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL FOR "ATTEMPTS AGAINST THE SECURITY OF THE STATE."

7. COMMENT: BOSCH'S STATEMENT CLARIFIED LITTLE. HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCE, HOWEVER, DID KEEP THE PRD AND ITS PRESENT PLIGHT BEFORE THE PUBLIC. ANALYZING THE OPTIONS OPEN TO THE PRD, PERHAPS PUBLICITY WAS ALL BOSCH HOPED TO ATTAIN BY HIS APPEARANCE. INDEED, AT THIS TIME, LITTLE ELSE IS FEASIBLE; THE PRD PROBABLY CANNOT ORGANIZE AND LEAD A SUCCESSFUL STROKE, ILLEGAL MASS DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD BE DANGEROUS IF NOT SUICIDAL AND, STREET VIOLENCE IS UNLIKELY BECAUSE THE PRD DOES NOT HAVE THE CADRE TO CARRY IT
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OUT.

8. IT IS CURIOUS THAT BOSCH, MOST OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CEN), AND VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE RADIO AND PRESS CORPS COULD HAVE ASSEMBLED AT THE PRD HEADQUARTERS WITHOUT ATTRACTING OFFICIAL NOTICE. BOSCH'S ABILITY TO SLIP IN AND OUT OF HIDING WITH SUCH EASE LENDS ADDITIONAL WEIGHT TO THE WIDELY HELD VIEW THAT THE GODR IN FACT KNOWS WHERE HE IS HIDING.
MELOY

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